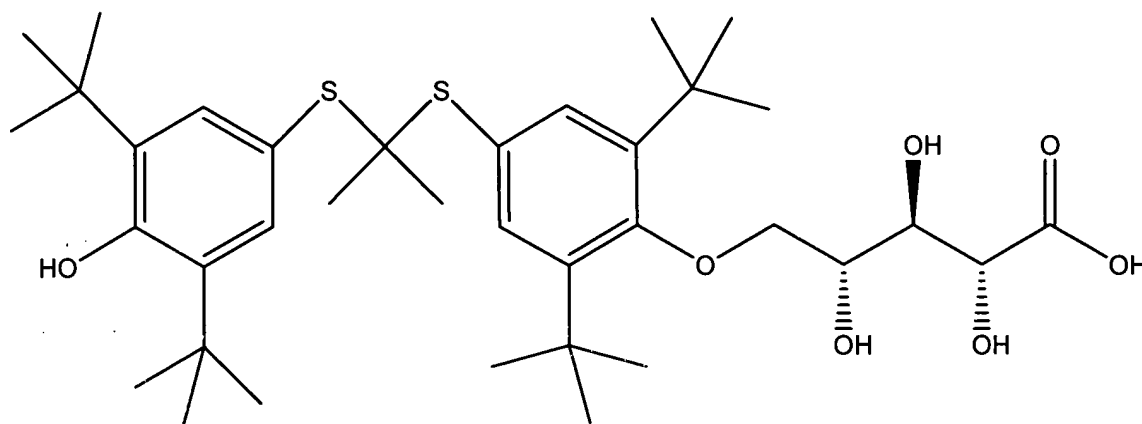**Amendment to the claims**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions or listings of claims.
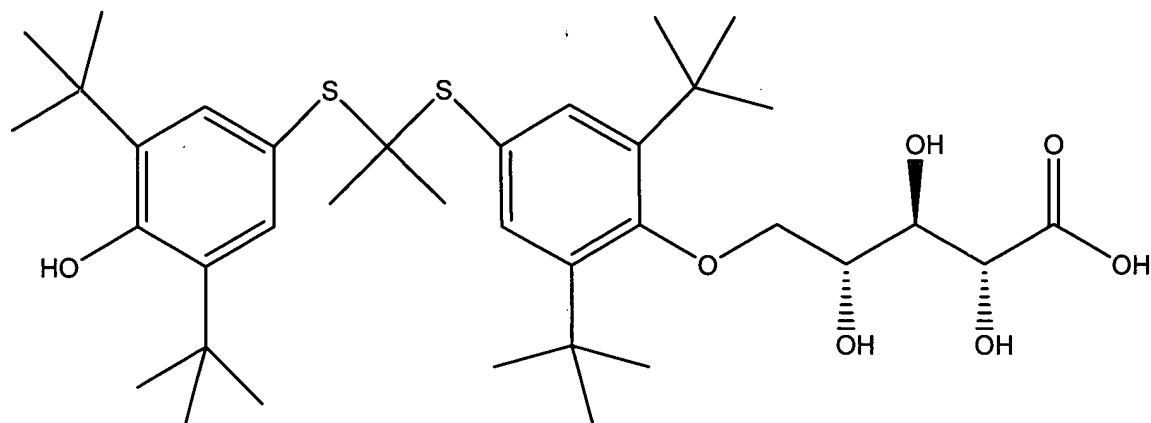
Listing of claims:

1. (canceled)

2. (previously presented) A compound of the formula:

or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug.

3. (canceled)

4-5 canceled

6. (previously presented) A method for increasing high density lipoprotein cholesterol level in a host comprising administering an effective amount of the compound of claim 2

7. (previously presented) A method to improve the functionality of circulating high density lipoprotein in a host, comprising administering an effective amount of the compound of claim 2.

8-68 (canceled)

69. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent and a therapeutically effective amount of

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

70. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 69 further comprising an IBAT inhibitor.

71. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 69 further comprising a statin.

72. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 71 wherein the statin is selected from the group consisting of lovastatin, simvastitin, pravastatin, fluvastatin, and atorvastatin.

73. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 69 further comprising a CETP inhibitor.
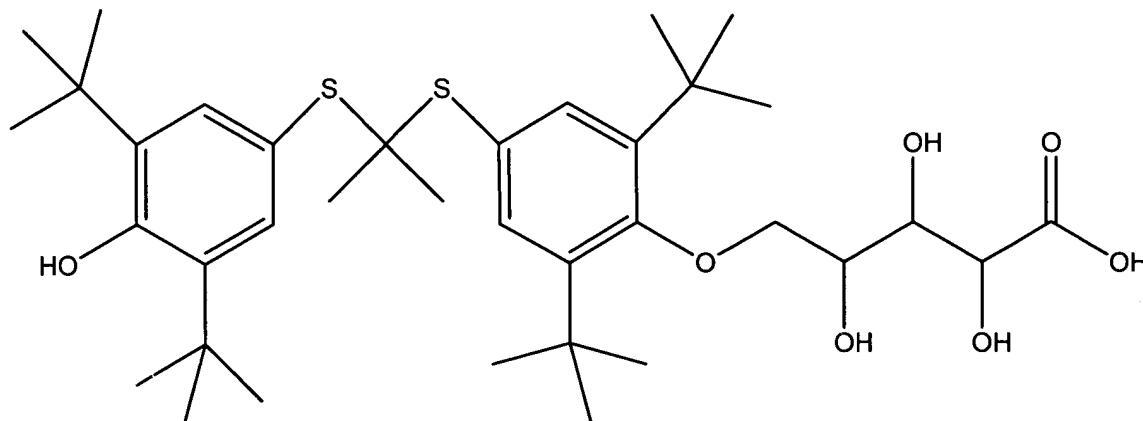
74. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 69 further comprising a fibrate.

75. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 69 further comprising nicotinic acid.

76. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 69 further comprising a compound selected from group consisting of probucol, nicotinic acid, platelet aggregation inhibitors, aspirin, coumadin, varapmil, diltiazem, nifedipine, an ACE inhibitor, captopril

3

enalopril, propanalol, terbutalol, labetalol, ibuprofen, indomethacin, fenoprofen, mefenamic acid,

flufenamic acid, sulinda, and a corticosteroid.

77. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically

acceptable carrier or diluent and a therapeutically effective amount of

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

78. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 77 further comprising a

statin.

79. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 78 wherein the statin is

selected from the group consisting of lovastatin, simvastitin, pravastatin, fluvastatin, and

atorvastatin.

80. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 77 further comprising a

CETP inhibitor.

81. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 77 further comprising a

fibrate.

82. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 77 further comprising

nicotinic acid.

83. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 77 further comprising a compound selected from group consisting of probucol, nicotinic acid, platelet aggregation inhibitors, aspirin, coumadin, varapmil, diltiazem, nifedipine, an ACE inhibitor, captopril enalopril, propanalol, terbutalol, labetalol, ibuprofen, indomethacin, fenoprofen, mefenamic acid, flufenamic acid, sulinda, and a corticosteroid.

84 - 86 (canceled)

87. (previously presented) A method to treat a cardiovascular disease in a subject, which method comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound of claim 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

88. (previously presented) The method of claim 87 wherein the cardiovascular disease is atherosclerosis.

89. (previously presented) The method of claim 87 wherein the cardiovascular disease is hypercholesterolemia.

90. (canceled)

91. (canceled)

92. (previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the host is a human.

93. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the host is a human.

94. (canceled)

95. (previously presented) The method of claim 87 wherein the subject is a human.